



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

"THE NAILED HANDS" versus "THE MAILED FIST"

By EZRA C. BUEHLER

NAPOLÉON, one of the world's greatest disciples of the "Mailed Fist," made this striking confession: "Alexander the Great, Cæsar, Charlemagne, and I have founded mighty empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius rest? Upon force. Christ alone established His kingdom upon love, and even today millions of men would willingly die for Him." *

The corner-stone upon which civilization rests bears the inscription, "Man Above Mammon." The sworn adversary of this inscription is the Mailed Fist; its eternal exponent, the Nailed Hands. The Mailed Fist uses brute strength irresponsibly; its essential philosophy is that "might makes right"; its goal is temporal power and its fruit is desolation and destruction. The Nailed Hands point the way to charity; they silently preach the gospel that "right will triumph"; they value the "man" and not the gain of man, and they bring life, and that more abundantly.

As the human race struggled onward from century to century, the doctrine of tooth and claw was doomed to give way before the quiet creative influences of spiritual virtues—sympathy, sacrifice, charity—virtues which put the supreme worth of man above mammon. These spiritual attributes have been dominating influences for civilization. In the innumerable clashes and conflicts of man, when that which was held essential was cast into the fiery furnace, there emerged from the consuming flame the elements fundamental to his progress. Jerusalem, the hope and pride of the Hebrew race, was leveled to the ground; but the principles of morality of this crumbled nation lived on and became standards of conduct for other peoples.

Out of the ashes of the glorious cities of ancient Greece and over the dead bodies of her citizens rose the spirit of Greek culture, which has become a priceless possession of civilization. Rome, with all her pride, with all her pomp and power, with all her material wealth, through clash of sword and shield, fell into ruin; but Roman law and order lived on.

The Mailed Fist established the institution of feudalism on lands and liens, on property and possessions. The Crusades, as a visible expression of spiritual power, broke the fetters of feudalism and gave man greater freedom of development. Even the church did not escape the tempter. In monastery and cloister mammon held sway.

When Martin Luther, a champion of the common people, unmasked the corruption of the Church, Europe again became a field of blood; but the shackles of church tyranny were broken and conscience was liberated.

The spirit of the Renaissance ushered in our age of science and invention, the age in which the forces of nature are harnessed for man's interests. Man delves into the depths of the earth, uses earth's products, builds skyscrapers, spans the streams, tunnels the mountains, converts deserts into gardens, gridirons the globe with continent overnight.

railroads, defies the waves, flashes his thoughts to the four corners of the earth, and flies from continent to

These accomplishments have ended the day of splendid "national isolation." The back-yards of nations have been pushed together. We cannot escape international relations. From the cradle to the grave, the life of man is interlinked with the life of his fellow-man. Civilization has become extremely complex. The more complex it is, the more vulnerable it is likely to be.

What happens? These astounding achievements have made fertile soil for a vigorous growth of materialism and caused a short circuit in the social order. The supreme worth of the individual has not held first place in the minds of men. Selfish national interests, fostered by suspicion and jealousy, competition and greed—the desire for material gain led mankind into the most destructive of all wars, a catastrophe which has become the darkest blot on the pages of history. Man was led astray by worshiping the disguised image of the Iron Hand. Hecatombs of material treasure and human blood were sacrificed. Vast areas of fertile fields were laid waste. Chief cities of many nations were shelled into ruin. The cost in dollars exceeds all comprehension. The blood of ten millions of the choicest sons of nations stained the clays of Europe. Added millions, racked on beds of pain, are now maimed and crippled for life. Threescore millions entered the valley of death and the hearth fires burned low in a hundred million homes. The gates of hell opened while the Prince of Darkness stalked abroad and the civilized world was under the scepter of the Mailed Fist.

Now the war is over and we have the aftermath. Bankruptcy threatens all Europe. Her countries are poverty-stricken, war-torn, mangled; her choicest manhood is in the grave; her people are crying for bread. From the Highlands of Scotland to the Holy Land there are millions of innocent, helpless children. They form a vast army of little frail frames, almost human skeletons. Their cheeks are sunken, the luster gone from their eyes; but, most tragic of all, they are broken in spirit, sick at heart. Elderly people, wearing the silvery crown of venerable age, are forming suicide clubs to preserve the lives of the young. Such is the outcome of the latest world tragedy.

Always where blood and treasure were sacrificed on the altar of Mars, some one had worshiped a false ideal. Would the Jewish nation have crumbled; would Greece and Rome have fallen; would slavery have clouded the horizon of the Western World; would church tyranny have reigned in Europe, if men and leaders of men had recognized the supreme worth of human beings? Would the furies of destruction have hovered over the earth in this twentieth century; would our culture have been polluted with carnage and our highly prized civilization stained with crimson if mankind had been permeated by the spirit of the Nailed Hands? The scepter of the material has held sway over man. "The soul of the world has at last been shocked into a true understanding of the inevitable and dire results of purely materialistic aims." *

Thus it is obvious that society should realize more fully the supreme worth of man, the fineness of human

* Bertrand's *Memoires*, Paris, 1844; quoted by Luthardt.

* John Oxenham, "The Vision Splendid," p. 6.

stuff. This realization inculcates a democratic spirit. As the Hebrews championed morality, the Greeks espoused culture, and the Romans promoted law, so America must champion world freedom. America has saved the world in a great measure from political autocracy. The challenge now comes to her to save the world from industrial despotism, lest that measure of liberty perish which has been advanced through unspeakable sacrifices of blood and treasure. Europe is searching every spot under the canopy of heaven for industrial leadership. She is looking to America, almost pleading that we extend a strong arm to steady her tottering industrial structure. But this nation cannot save the world from chaos as long as her industrial spirit is fostered by the Mailed Fist, as long as the dollar-sign is the coat of arms of her industrial leaders. The premium on life has been discounted. Man has become a cog in a machine. He is called a "hand" and is known merely by numbers. He begins the day at the blow of the whistle and drops his pick at the stroke of the clock. His bank account determines his value; his life is insured and assessed in dollars. Can a man's worth be measured by his material achievements? "What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?" or "What can a man give in exchange for his life?" *

"Behold the midnight splendor, worlds upon worlds,
Ten thousand—add twice ten thousand more,
Then weigh the whole—
One soul outweighs them all."†

And yet human life is held cheap. For every four American soldiers that fell in battle in the recent war for liberty, American industry produced a multi-millionaire. For every multi-millionaire a thousand liberty-loving men endured the hard grind of the sweat shops and added thousands of women and children toiled in the gloom.

The oppressed are now clamoring for a fairer apportionment of the necessities of life. A crisis is here. There is serious conflict between the money lords and the working people. Strikes threaten to paralyze the nation. Our great cities register multitudes in piteous plight. In this day of most marvelous capacity for prosperity and production, why should we be facing poverty and disaster? Men who hold the steering wheels of industry have worshiped mammon, and the innocent and the weak are paying the price with life's blood.

The immeasurable evaluation of every personality fosters not only democracy, but international co-operation as well. Twentieth-century facilities for communication and transportation brought internationalism to the threshold and the war ushered it in. A practical program for co-operation is now necessary. The war taught us the one great lesson, that if peace is to be enjoyed on earth, no nation can hope to thrive by power alone without the good will of its neighbors.

In the last analysis, then, it is not what princes, potentates, and presidents think of each other, but what the people in their respective realms think of each other, that will register the reign of peace. It is what men think of men and how men value human life in com-

parison with material gain that will speed the day of the Commonwealth of Man. Force may crush monarchs; armaments may enforce a temporary reign of peace; but only a high respect for human rights and a Christian regard for human lives will insure a lasting peace.

Our civilization is blessed with liberty and enlightenment which the conflicts of the ages have advanced. Our supreme challenge is to preserve these blessings. We have come to a new age. Its beginning marks the most significant hour of all history. Mankind is in peril. After a war in less than five years the life toll exceeded twice that of all the wars of the preceding century, humanity cannot escape treading the edge of a great social abyss. There rests a grave responsibility, a momentous responsibility, upon the men of this generation. The men of this hour must keep civilization from going over the edge into the dark chasm. The destiny of the world for centuries to come will in a great measure be determined by the men of today.

Justice is the supreme law of the universe. Man has violated this law by seeking material gain at the cost of life's blood—too often innocent blood. The result is fires of affliction and bitterness of woe. Will the hammer strokes of affliction shape the consciousness of men and change the hearts of nations? Will this late world tragedy be loss or gain? Under God it rests with us. The world's greatest tragedy ended upon the cross. To the people of that time it seemed absolute loss. But that apparent loss has become life's greatest gain.

If this late holocaust will give a fairer apportionment of the necessities of life and give a living wage to workers, it will have done much. If it will level the dividing walls of nations and sweep the armaments from land and sea, free us from autocracy and increase liberty, it will have done very much. But if it will break the fetters of materialism and obliterate the philosophy that "might makes right"; if it will enthrone in the hearts and minds of men the spirit of the Nailed Hands; if it will lead the world to value human lives by the standard given by the Man of Galilee, it will have done everything. Our sacrifices will then be everlasting gain. The millions of crosses on Flanders' Fields will then wear a new crown of glory and mankind shall have a new birth of freedom, and the world shall see the dawn of the fairer day, when God and right shall reign supreme.

PILGRIMS' DAY

President's Proclamation

PRESIDENT WILSON has issued a proclamation in which he requests the observance by schools, colleges, and universities of the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. At the same time he named three members of the United States Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission. Six members had already been appointed by Congress.

The text of the proclamation follows:

"MY FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN: December 21 next will mark the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620. The day will be becomingly celebrated at Plymouth under the auspices of the Plymouth

* Mark VIII, 36-37.

† Author unknown.